

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of	:	
	:	
Ober <i>et al.</i>	:	Group Art Unit: TBA
	:	
Application No.: TBA	:	Examiner: TBA
	:	
Filed: March 15, 2004	:	Confirmation No. TBA
	:	
For: "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GENERATING: DE-IDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE DATA"	:	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.  
Customer No. 23859

March 15, 2004

Sir:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action pertaining to the above-identified patent application, filed concurrently herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment and consider the following remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1 of the specification, please replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a continuation application from, and claims the benefit of and priority to, pursuant to U.S.C. § 119(e), application No. 09/665,420, filed September 20, 2000, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/154,726, filed September 20, 1999, which applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.